

Message Text

SECRET

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DRAFTED BY S/S-O:LMACFARLANE

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USDEL SECRETARY IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 033435 TOSEC 030067

NODIS

CHEROKEE

FOLLOWING REPEAT CAIRO 1806 ACTION SECSTATE 11 FEB 76

QUOTE

S E C R E T CAIRO 1806

NODIS/CHEROKEE

FOR THE SECRETARY FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, EG, US

SUBJECT: MILITARY EQUIPMENT FOR EGYPT

REF: SECTO 03008

1. IMMEDIATELY UPON RECEIPT REFTEL TODAY, I
ARRANGED TO SEE FAHMY TO CONVEY YOUR ORAL MESSAGE
TO THE PRESIDENT. IN DOING SO, I POINTED OUT IT
CROSSED MY REPORT OF OUR CONVERSATION OF LAST NIGHT
ON THE SAME SUBJECT (CAIRO 1793). FAHMY READ THE
MESSAGE AND SENT IT TO THE PRESIDENT WITH A
COVERING MEMORANDUM SO INDICATING.

2. FAHMY'S PERSONAL REACTION WAS ONE OF
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DISAPPOINTMENT. USING HIS FAVORITE PHRASE,

HE CALLED THE MESSAGE "COMPOSITION." HE EXPRESSED REGRET THAT THERE HAS APPARENTLY BEEN NO CONGRESSIONAL CONSULTATION AS YET. NOTING THAT YOU PLAN TO TRAVEL TO LATIN AMERICA ON FEB 16, HE BEMOANED THE FACT THAT THIS IS LIKELY TO RESULT IN FURTHER DELAY IN CONSULTING WITH THE CONGRESS. WE KEEP TALKING ABOUT DIFFICULTIES, HE CARPED, AND GOE ACCEPTS THE FACT THAT THERE ARE SUCH PROBLEMS. HE PROFESSED TO BE UNABLE TO UNDERSTAND, HOWEVER, WHY WE SEEM UNWILLING TO TACKLE THE SUBJECT. GOE'S REQUEST IS MODEST. IN TALKS THE PRESIDENT HAS HAD WITH VISITING CODELS, THEIR REACTION HAS USUALLY BEEN POSITIVE TO THE IDEA OF DEFENSIVE ARMS SALES TO EGYPT. HE WAS SURE WE WOULD FIND FURTHER REASONS TO DELAY. IN THIS CONNECTION, HE SPECIFICALLY ASKED IF GOE IS GOING TO RECEIVE THE FIRST OF THE C130'S ON MARCH 1 AS PROMISED OR NOT?

3. I TOLD HIM THE MESSAGE WAS NOT JUST COMPOSITION AS HE CHARGED. IT WAS A GENUINE EFFORT TO KEEP THE PRESIDENT AND HIM INFORMED OF THE SITUATION. AS I HAD TOLD HIM LAST NIGHT, YOU ARE FULLY AWARE OF THE IMPORTANCE OF THIS MATTER TO THE PRESIDENT AND INTEND TO PROCEED AS SOON AS CIRCUMSTANCES PERMIT. THE MATTER IS NOT AS SIMPLE AS HE SEEMED TO BELIEVE. ALTHOUGH SOME VISITING CODELS MIGHT APPEAR TO BE SYMPATHETIC TO THE IDEA WHILE HERE, IT IS QUITE A DIFFERENT MATTER FOR THEM TO APPROVE IT FORMALLY AT HOME WHEN FACED WITH CONSTITUENCY OPPOSITION. ALL OF US HAVE TO REALIZE THAT THE ISSUE IS HIGHLY SENSITIVE AND NEEDS THE MOST CAREFUL HANDLING. WE WILL MOVE AS FAST AS WE CAN, BUT MUST ALSO EXERCISE GREAT CARE IN TRYING TO MOVE AHEAD. PREMATURE ACTION COULD PROMPT CONGRESSIONAL PROHIBITION, WHICH HE WOULD CERTAINLY AGREE WOULD SERVE NEITHER OF OUR INTERESTS.

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UNQUOTE

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